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SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Twenty-eight students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, as well as Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., are working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations this summer as part of its Summer Greeter Program.

Cass Family Clinic providing paid job opportunities to local students

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASS COUNTY — Cass Family Clinic is giving nearly 30 high school students from southwest Michigan and northwest Indiana job opportunities this summer through its Summer Greeter Program.

This summer, 28 students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, as well as Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., are working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations. As part of a paid summer job program that runs through August, the students are welcoming and assisting visitors, distributing clinic merchandise, and shadowing staff. In addition, they will receive training in job interview skills, resume writing, and financial planning.

"These students are gaining valuable, first-hand insight into what it's like to work in the medical field," said Joe Gavan, CEO of Cass Family Clinic. "Our hope is that this experience at Cass Family Clinic will strengthen their communication and workplace skills, while helping them make more informed decisions about their future career paths."

The program's student greeters are

See JOB, Page A8

Faulty equipment to blame for recent power outages

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Residents on Niles' east side found themselves without power from Tuesday afternoon to early Wednesday morning after experiencing multiple outages.

According to a Thursday afternoon news release from the city, the root cause was identified as a faulty voltage regulator at one of the City's substations.

The malfunctioning regulator caused inconsistent voltage levels in the power delivery system, leading to sporadic outages in different areas and making it more difficult to pinpoint the source of the problem. City line workers initially attempted to manually adjust the regulator, but it failed to respond.

As a result, crews rerouted electricity through alternate systems. Unfortunately, the added load caused a transformer to fail, leading to an additional outage.

Crews worked through the night to resolve the issue. A new voltage regulator was installed, and the damaged transformer was bypassed. Power was fully restored to affected areas by approximately 4:00 a.m. Wednesday.

This incident was further complicated by one of the substations being offline for scheduled maintenance, which contributed to the duration of the outage.

The city thanked residents for their patience and understanding as our team worked to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Edwardsburg Museum awarded history grant

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — The America250MI Committee has awarded the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum $2,975 as part of the first round of the America250MI History Grant Program. The grant is for the museum's deck renovation.

The renovation of the 20-year-old deck will ensure its continued safety for handicap access.

The work will include replacing deck boards, railings, and support posts. New wooden beams

will be installed as needed on the 12-foot by 36-foot structure. The deck ramp will feature new metal handrails on both sides. Work will be completed this summer for the museum's Sauk Trail Event, "Echoes of Our Past,

See GRANT, Page A8

'NO KINGS' RALLY

DRAWS PROTESTORS, COUNTER-PROTESTORS IN NILES

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — More than distance separated people attending two rallies in Niles Saturday afternoon.

While those attending the "No Kings" rally downtown protested President Donald Trump's policies and actions, those at Donovan Smith Veterans Memorial Park at 11th and Main were celebrating both Trump's achievements and the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

As many as 500 people crowded the intersections of Second and Main and Front and Main Streets. In contrast, just a couple of dozen people attended the pro-Trump rally at 11th and Main Streets. Both groups have been holding twice monthly rallies at Second and Main on the first and third Mondays of the month.

The "No Kings" rally was one of hundreds held across the country Saturday. Many held signs decrying what they see as autocratic and dictator-like rule by the Trump administration with a smaller number holding signs related to immigration and other concerns.

In contrast, those at the pro-Trump rally were holding Trump/Vance and other patriotic signs.

See RALLY, Page A8

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEBRA HAIGHT

OBITUARIES

Hortense Edmondsen
Trisha Mrozek
Bonnie Tuyls
Johnathan Edward Wiseman
James Sheppard
Gary Evans McCormick
David Benton
Vernon Grinnell

A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Thank you to the woman who jump-started my car at Martin's last week. You saved me."

A2

Annual Steve's Run returns to Dowagiac July 18

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

$45 million for a parade that no one went to. This hurts, especially after DOGE hacked a lot of jobs and said it was looking to trim wasteful spending.

It's ok to protest, but burning vehicles and throwing bottles at law enforcement is simply inexcusable and those people need to be arrested.

I'm thinking the protestors should have crawled in the windows at the Capitol building. Apparently that's perfectly acceptable.

I must say, I may be the only one who thinks the Hwy 12 and 51 intersection is far better than what it used to be. Just follow the signs and it's fine.

Flight Aviation should be included in high school electives. There is such a shortage of pilots and they get paid really well. Aircraft maintenance is also a fantastic career option.

Thank you to the woman who jump-started my car at Martin's last week. You saved me.

When will the world learn that war only causes pain? How can one or two leaders decide who lives and who dies with such horrible fighting? Why is it their choice?

The fighting has to stop. The US cannot get dragged into another conflict.

I understand the pain of deportation. I understand our immigration system is broken. But, we simply need to know who is in our country. I believe the deportations should continue, but I also believe there should be a legitimate path to citizenship that includes community service, taxation and a clean record while being a guest in our country.

Dowagiac PrideFest was a great reminder that no one should need to hide who they love, and they should feel as free to express that love as anyone else does.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	30% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	60% Chance of Rain
90° 76°	93° 77°	95° 76°	95° 72°	91° 73°	90° 73°

ROADRUNNERS RISING

SMC continues enrollment growth

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Following a public hearing on June 11, the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees unanimously adopted balanced 2025-26 fiscal-year budgets.

The $28.6 million general fund for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, anticipates $11.7 million from tuition and fees, $8.1 million from property taxes on 2.365 mills, $8.3 million in state appropriation and $500,000 from other revenue.

Interim President Brent Brewer reported that summer enrollment "well exceeded our goal of 580 students in head count with 622, and we exceeded our goal of 3,440 in contact hours with 3,671. Percentagewise, we're up 7.4 percent in head count and 6.3 percent in contact hours.

"This marks the highest summer enrollment headcount since 2017," Brewer continued. "Sixty percent of our students are taking online courses, with 68 percent of contact hours online. This compares to 56 percent of students and 62 percent of contact hours online last summer."

"SMC has always had balanced budgets and this budget will grow the college with allocations for additional student housing, the Charles O. Zollar Building expansion and future improvements to the Dale A. Lyons performing arts facilities," Board Chair Tom Jerdon added. "All the credit goes to the senior leadership team who have made this happen. The administration is really producing enrollment numbers once again, and their hard work will continue all summer long. It is truly amazing given the historical decline in high school graduates within the area and the state."

Trustees acknowledged 26 gifts to the SMC Foundation totaling $18,589.89, and the board accepted five donations directly to the college amounting to $8,350.

The board also reiterated that as Southwestern Michigan College begins searching for its ninth president, the community is invited to participate in this important process. Community members are asked to attend a work session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at Mathews Conference Center West in Fred Mathews Library, 58900 Cherry Grove Road, Dowagiac. College trustees are asking citizens to share their thoughts on the qualities, priorities and vision essential for SMC's next president. Those unable to attend or who wish to provide additional feedback may submit input online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDM7JC8.

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Community Foundation awards local scholarships

COMMUNITY REPORT

BERRIEN COUNTY — Berrien Community Foundation is awarding $104,500 in scholarships to Niles, Brandywine and Buchanan students as part of its annual scholarship program, which will award over $470,000 for the upcoming school year.

Berrien Community Foundation (BCF) hosted its "Wicked Adventure" Scholarship Celebration June 17 at Hidden Pointe Event Hall in Benton Harbor. Inspired by the movie "Wicked," the evening celebrated the "magic of education" and how being different – being you – is what makes you powerful.

Fifteen students living or attending school in southern Berrien County received a combined $104,500 in scholarships. Those students are: All God's Children Community Choir Scholarship: Maxwell Arbanas (Buchanan); F.A. Mason Penwell Nursing Scholarship: Onjaniaina Tsiry Christiane Rasamimanana Herivonjy (Lake Michigan College) and Hayley Smith (Lake Michigan College); Frederick S. Upton Foundation Opportunity Scholarship: Jenna Franklin (Buchanan) and Zachary Hines (Niles); James & Bernadette McKittrick Agricultural and Environmental Scholarship: Carter Sobecki (Brandywine) and Coy Weinberg (Buchanan); Lora Wile-Miller Memorial Scholarship: Jenna Franklin (Buchanan); Marion & Dan Crossman Scholarship: Alyssa Hamrick (Niles); Maybury Scholarship: Coy Weinberg (Buchanan); New Futures Scholarship: Angelica Mazumder (Niles); Rodney Weir Marching Band Scholarship: Adam Starr (Brandywine); Ronald H. Miller Journalism Scholarship: Emma Williams (Niles); Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Taskforce Scholarship: Hailey Robbins (Buchanan); Stoub Family Scholarship for Working Students: Geneva Tabor (Buchanan); Trefz Family Scholarship: Benjamin Liebich (Michigan Lutheran). In total, 88 scholarships were awarded to 84 students from across Berrien County and Hartford for a total of $470,500.

"A scholarship is not just a financial gift – it's an investment in a student's potential to change their life and the world around them," said Lisa Cripps-Downey, BCF President. "Behind every scholarship is a donor whose generosity creates a lasting impact, empowering students to achieve more than they ever imagined."

BCF offers scholarships for graduating high school seniors, students currently in college, adults returning to the classroom and students going into the skilled trades.

Beckwith to host auditions for 'Murdered to Death'

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Beckwith Theatre Company will hold auditions next month for its upcoming production of "Murdered to Death" by Peter Gordon.

Directed by Larry Nielsen, auditions will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19; 4 p.m. Sunday, July 20; 7 p.m. Monday, July 21 at the Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave, Dowagiac. Production dates are Sept. 26–28 and Oct. 3–5. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

Play description:

"Murdered to Death" is a hilarious spoof of the best of Agatha Christie traditions. Set in a country manor house, an eclectic group of characters tries to determine who murdered the owner of the house. This is the first of Gordon's three Agatan Christie spoofs. All have been hits.

All the Christie characters are here, and they're all caught up in the side-splitting antics which follow the mysterious death of the owner of a country manor house. It soon becomes clear that the murderer is not yet finished, begging the question will the murderer he caught before everyone else has met their doom or will the audience die laughing first?

Roles to be auditioned include: The characters in Murdered to Death are all deliberately based upon "whodumit" stereotypes. Ages are for guidance only and can be varied, provided that the overall balance is maintained.

Mildred, the moderately wealthy owner of the Bagshot House. Written to be in her late fifties. Dorothy, the rather plain niece who would inherit Bagshot House. Dorthy is also the companion and housekeeper to Mildred. Written to be in her late twenties

Bunting, the pedantic Butler, somewhat creepy as if lost in his own world. Appears at times like a ghost. Written to be in his sixties.

Colonel Charles Craddock has the stiffest of stiff upper lips and posture. A confidant and blustery Colonel in tweed. A philanderer in the past and present. Written to be in his sixties.

Margaret Craddock, the long suffering but acerbic wife of the Colonel who knows what she knows. Written to be slightly younger than her husband.

Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington, the stunningly attractive, well-dressed, and very high-society socialite. Written to be in her mid-twenties

Pierre Marceau, a shady French art dealer, caught recently defrauding Mildred. Has an exaggerated French accent. Perhaps mustachioed as Hercule Poirot. Written to be in his carly thirties.

Joan Maple, (The parody of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple) Gossipy older woman with a knack for solving crimes. Underestimated by others who think Miss Maple is too confused to solve crimes. A nosy busybody of a neighbor, sleuth wannabe who murder follows. Maple is quirky and naive yet astute. Written to be in her sixties.

Constable Thompkins, a bright, village policeman or policewoman, precise, calm, and logical demeanor in comedic contrast to Pratt. Written without age.

Inspector Pratt, over-the-top itt demeanor and incompetent in ability but lacking any self-awareness and humility. Inept, posing, and clumsy Inspector. The type of person once met is never forgotten. He's armed and a menace to all. More Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau while trying to be Hercule Poirot. Written without age.

PET OF THE WEEK

Oakley is an affectionate Goldendoodle with Paws of Hope. Volunteers said she loves children and gets along with dogs but not cats. Oakley is very smart, enjoys car rides and daily walks. She is spayed, 2-4 years old, microchipped, current on shots and heartworm and Lyme Disease negative. Contact Paws of Hope at information@pawsofhope.org

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMC Should Change Its Public Comment Policy

When I attend a meeting of the County Board of Commissioners, I can speak on agenda items at the start of the meeting and then again on non-agenda items at the end of the meeting. Likewise, the Dowagiac City Council allows for public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items. The same is true of school districts in the county. In none of these situations have I, or others I know, been required to submit our comments in writing the day before the meeting. Not so with the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees.

SMC's Board Policy states that anyone wishing to offer public comment on a non-agenda item must submit their comments in writing in advance to the board chair and secretary. One can only ask why? Since agendas are posted only a day or two prior to board meetings, and until recently, emails were not published for board members, I can only assume that the board does not really want to hear from members of the public.

It is especially curious since the board also has the practice of not responding to public comment and therefore doesn't need time to prepare a response. And surely the chair would not be censoring or disallowing a person to speak at a public board meeting?

Southwestern Michigan College's Board of Trustees needs to follow the letter and the spirit of the Open Meetings Act; SMC needs to get in sync with other community boards and allow for public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items—without prior approval or screening.

Naomi Ludman
Dowagiac

A Closer Look at Niles Township's Cannabis Controversy

For most of our lives, Niles Township has been a quiet, dependable place. Not flashy, not booming, but familiar. That's starting to change. In just a few months, long-standing businesses have announced their departures. New ones are appearing seemingly overnight. And for many residents, the question isn't whether change is coming, it's who's deciding what that change looks like.

Back in 2022, township voters rejected a proposal to allow adult-use cannabis establishments. Then, in November 2024, the issue returned to the ballot and barley passed. Out of more than 5,700 votes cast, just 245 tipped the scale. That kind of result calls for careful, transparent implementation. But what followed was anything but.

On April 21, 2025, the Township Board passed Zoning Ordinance 25-01, which opened the door to unlimited cannabis retailers on S 11th Street between State Line Road and Fulkerson Avenue. Within days, a resident filed a Notice of Intent to Petition, triggering an automatic legal suspension of the ordinance under Michigan law (MCL 125.3402). But even though the Township acknowledges that its cannabis zoning ordinance is not in effect and might not ever be in effect, the Township is accepting applications and intends to issue licenses.

The question is, "how can the Township have cannabis businesses without a cannabis zoning ordinance?" The answer is that the Township decided it would rely in its already existing retail use under its Zoning Ordinance. As a simple retail use, cannabis businesses can be located anywhere a retail business is located, without separation distances from schools and without the other regulations Zoning Ordinance 25-01. In other words, even if voters reject Ordinance 25-01, the Township will still approve cannabis facilities, just with fewer rules and less oversight.

That's not thoughtful planning. That's policy by loophole.

Zoning laws exist to ensure that development is deliberate, safe, and aligned with community needs. What's happening here circumvents those laws, and in doing so, undermines public trust. When residents see their Township pushing forward with a suspended ordinance and then pivoting to a workaround behind closed doors it's hard to believe their input was ever truly valued.

More than a thousand residents have signed petitions demanding that this decision be put to a public vote before our township is reshaped forever.

To date, we have not found a single township or city in Michigan, or anywhere in the country, that has tried to regulate cannabis businesses like nothing more than a simple retail use. If Niles Township continues down this path, it will be the first walking blindfolded into a legal and economic unknown.

This isn't about being anti-cannabis. It's about being pro-community. The future of our township should not be decided in closed-door meetings or buried in fine print. It should be shaped through dialogue, transparency, and the democratic process. If you believe the people of Niles Township deserve a real say in our future, now is the time to speak up. Join the effort to protect our local economy, preserve community space, and restore public trust.

Tim Mann
Niles

NEWS

Sheriff deputies honored for saving life

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Sheriff's Deputies were honored Thursday for their efforts to save a woman in a March 5 incident in Cass County.

Berrien County Sheriff Chuck Heit made the presentation at Thursday's Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting. "I appreciate the opportunity to recognize our staff for a job well done," he said.

Heit reported that Deputies Brian Root and Wesley Marcellus are getting meritorious service awards, Marcus Chartrand and Ethan Zeiger lifesaving/bravery awards and Lukas Runser a certificate of commendation.

He noted that the five deputies responded to the Arthur Dodd Memorial Park in Cass County for a priority call of a female who was attempting suicide with a rope around her neck and had poured gasoline on herself with the intent of setting herself on fire and hanging herself.

"The deputies located the female on the north end of the park under a pavilion," he said. "The female had a green extension cord wrapped around her neck and from the rafters of the pavilion. She was standing on a step stool, with a gas can on the ground, and gasoline poured on the concrete below her."

He reported that Root began negotiations with her and was trying to calm her down while attempting to develop a rapport with her. While she was yelling at the deputies to stay away, or she would light herself on fire, Root noticed the lighter would not light due to the strong wind blowing at the time.

"Deputy Root was using his flashlight to distract her, so she was unaware of what was going on around her which allowed Deputy Marcellus to get closer to her," Heit said. "Deputy Runser had the forward thinking to grab a fire extinguisher where he stood by in case she was able to set herself on fire."

"Deputy Marcellus had other officers turn off their flashlights so that she could not see him as he cautiously approached her," he added. "Deputy Marcellus advised officers that she had put the lighter in her pocket and was attempting to tighten the cord around her neck. Deputy Marcellus demonstrated courage as he rushed the female and held her up so that she could not hang herself."

Heit said that Root then rushed in and helped hold her off the ground. Deputies Chartrand and Zeiger were able to cut the extension cord to prevent her from being able to strangle herself. "Deputies were able to guide the female to the ground and attempt to keep her calm until the ambulance arrived," he noted.

"Deputies Root and Marcellus are being awarded the Meritorious Service Award for putting themselves in harm's way while demonstrating courage in which resulted in the life saving measure of the female," Heit said.

"Deputies Chartrand and Zeiger are being awarded the Life Saving/Bravery Award for putting themselves in danger while assisting in the life saving measure of the female."

"Deputy Runser is being awarded the Certificate of Commendation for his forward thinking of having a fire extinguisher ready to assist in the life saving of the individual or officers if she was able light the gasoline on fire."

"It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we present these awards to each of these deputies in recognition of their bravery, decisive action and commitment to the preservation of human life. Their courage and professionalism reflect well on themselves and the Berrien County Sheriff's Office," Heit said.

In action at Thursday's Board of Commissioners meeting, commissioners approved several agenda items and reported on committee work and their individual activities during the last week.

One of the items approved was a speed study requested by the Bertrand Township Board for Portage Road from the state line to U.S. 12. Township officials have said that traffic has increased on the road and they want a speed study done to see if the speed should be adjusted from the current 55 miles per hour.

Finance Committiee vice-chair Jon Hinkelman reported that work is progressing on repairs to the 500 Circle building in Buchanan. Hinkelman said that two bid waivers totaling $388,700 have been awarded for roof and engineering work on the building.

The county bought the property from American Electric Power in 2022 with plans to renovate the building to house the county's 9-1-1 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center offices and possibly other county departments such as the south county branch of the County Clerk's office.

The total building renovation is expected to cost $10 million and be done next year. The county secured a $3 million federal grant last year to pay for part of the renovations.

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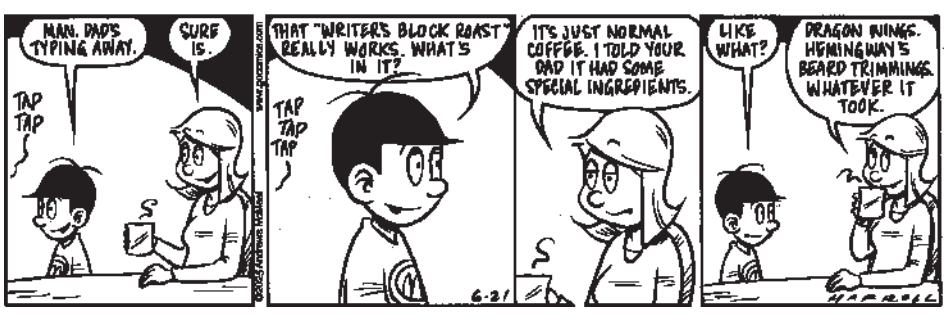
COMICS & PUZZLES

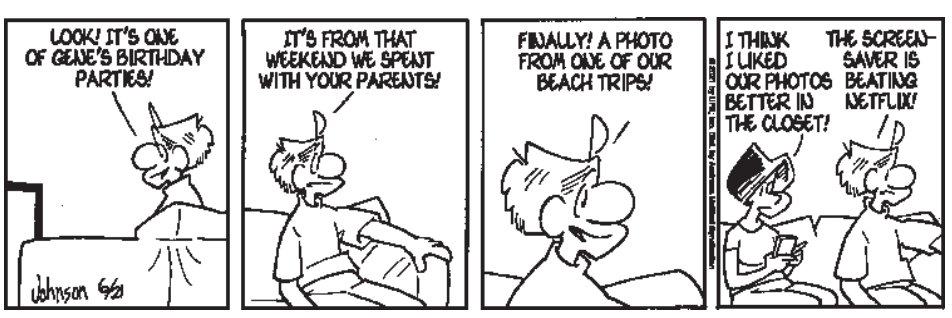
ADAM


MAN. DAD'S TYPING AWAY.
SURE IS.
TAP TAP
THAT "WRITER'S BLOCK ROAST" REALLY WORKS. WHAT'S IN IT?
TAP TAP TAP
IT'S JUST NORMAL COFFEE. I TOLD YOUR DAD IT HAD SOME SPECIAL INGREDIENTS.
LIKE WHAT?
DRAGON WINGS. HEMINGWAY'S BEARD TRIMMINGS. WHATEVER IT TOOK.
6-21

ALLEY OOP

WELL, I GUESS WE SOLVED THE TROLLEY PROBLEM.
I SUPPOSE, IN OUR OWN WAY, WE DID.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO BRANGDON, THE TROLLEY CONDUCTOR?
HIS BOSS SAID HE'D BE GIVEN THE HARSHEST PUNISHMENT THEY'VE EVER GIVEN: THREE DAYS OF PAID LEAVE.
NOT BAD.
AND HE CAN NO LONGER CONDUCT REAL-LIFE THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS.
NOT EVEN THE SHIP OF THESEUS? BUT HE PROMISED ME A NEW OLD NEW BOAT!
6/21

ARLO & JANIS


LOOK! IT'S ONE OF GENE'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES!
IT'S FROM THAT WEEKEND WE SPENT WITH YOUR PARENTS!
FINALLY! A PHOTO FROM ONE OF OUR BEACH TRIPS!
I THINK I LIKED OUR PHOTOS BETTER IN THE CLOSET!
THE SCREEN-SAVER IS BEATING NETFLIX!
Johnson 6/21

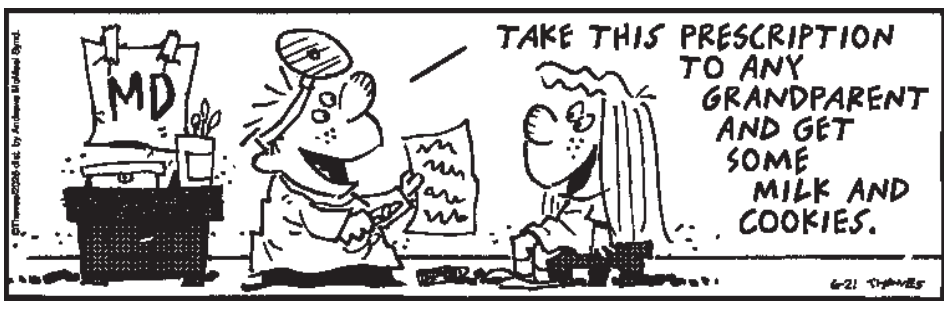
BIG NATE

HEAR ABOUT MY STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD, RANDY?
SNORT! BIG DEAL!
THAT AWARD IS LIKE A PARTICIPATION TROPHY! EVERYBODY WINS IT EVENTUALLY!
EVEN NICK BLONSKY HAS WON IT!
OH, THE BRACING SLAP OF REALITY.
IT'S TRUE. I WAS FEBRUARY.
Visit: bignate.com

BORN LOSER

GRAMMIE SAYS SHE HAS TO GET HEARING AIDS, BECAUSE SHE'S HARD OF HEARING. ARE YOU HARD OF HEARING, UNCLE TED?
NO, BUT WHEN WE GET OLDER, WE ALL HAVE ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES.
OH, SO YOU'RE HARD OF SEEING!

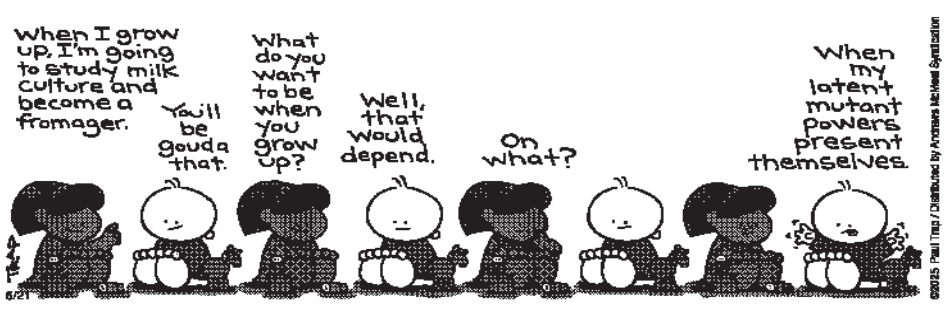
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

GUNTHER, I'M SUSPENDING YOU TWO WEEKS WITH PAY FOR HARASSING TOURISTS
I'M REALLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT
IT'S A GOOD SIGN YOU FEEL THAT WAY
YEAH... I WAS HOPING FOR A MONTH
I HATE YOU!

THATABABY


When I grow up, I'm going to study milk culture and become a fromager.
You'll be gouda that.
What do you want to be when you grow up?
Well, that would depend.
On what?
When my latent mutant powers present themselves.
6/21

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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

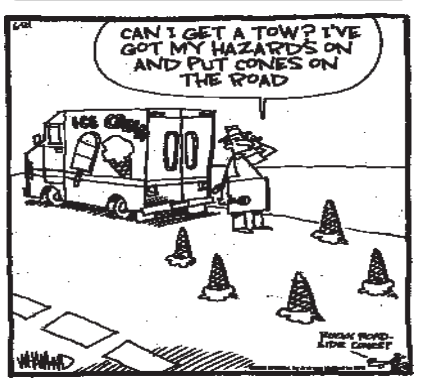
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

4				2				1
				1		2	9	
	9		5	3			6	
		7	2					
		2		6		4		
					9	6		
	5			9	3		2	
	7	4		5				
8				7				5

MODERATELY CONFUSED

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEW YORK- & CHICAGO-STYLE WAFERS?
STAHLER 6/21
© 2025 Jeff Stahler/ Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

REALITY CHECK

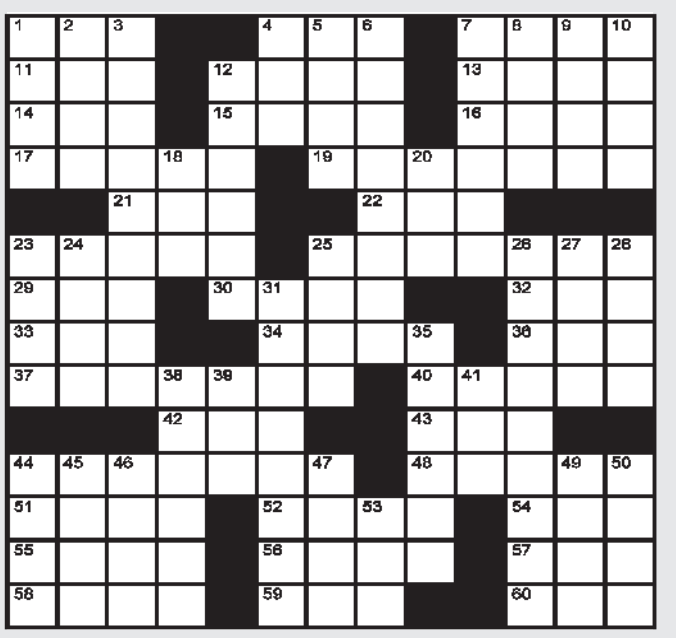


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 And so forth (Abbr.)
4 Cut a —
7 Open-handed hit
11 Shock partner
12 Courtroom fig.
13 Dunce cap shape
14 Masculine title
15 Back
16 Howard and Periman
17 Knock's answer
19 Environment
21 Rink surface
22 Flat cap
23 Yoga position
25 Minor role for an actor (2 wds.)
29 Down Under bird
30 Adolescent
32 Chinese chairman
33 — and abet
34 Pesters
36 Paid athlete
37 Exceptionally good
40 Brilliance
42 PIN prompter
43 Flower necklace
44 Anonymous man (2 wds.)
48 Clear a windshield
51 Eager
52 Change the decor
54 "— — little teapot ..."
55 Crafted
56 Grade sch.
57 H.S. subject
58 Winter fun item
59 Bad: Prefix
60 Bro's sibling

DOWN
1 Freedom from effort
2 Mattress size
3 Sureness
4 Road (Abbr.)
5 Beehive State
6 Moving spirally about an axis
7 — and save
8 Booty
9 Actress — Paquin
10 Bothersome one
12 Collar
18 Old European coin
20 Club
23 Grassy plains
24 Leave unmentioned
25 Grizzly —
26 Makes louder
27 — avis
28 Horn sound
31 In love
35 Rarely
38 Touched down
39 Inc., overseas
41 So-so grade
44 Crams
45 Ellipse
46 Put in a secret place
47 Wriggling
49 Old Dodge
50 Jokes
53 — Moines, Iowa

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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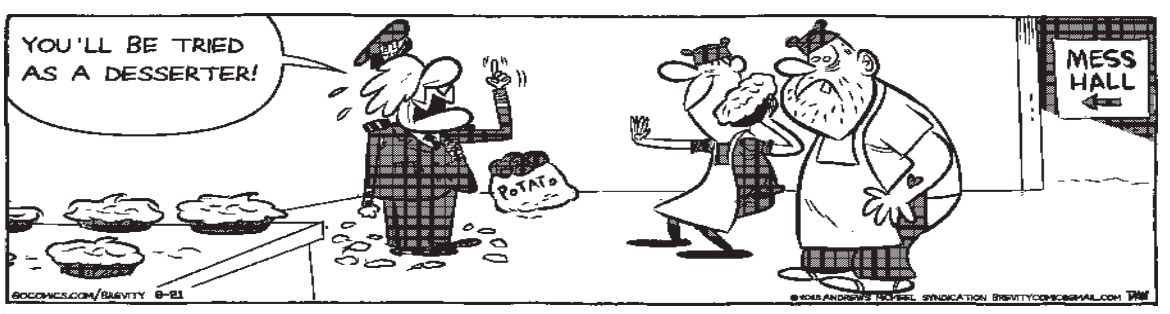
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

SHARI, YOU GOTTA COME WITH US TO FALLS BRIDGE TONIGHT. JENNY INVITED US. SHE'S THE GIRL I MET IN THE CEMETERY.
YOU DO ALL SORTS OF CREEPY THINGS THESE DAYS, HUH? I'M IN.
JENNY
MY FRIENDS AND I ARE GOING TO DO A NIGHT WALK ACROSS FALLS BRIDGE AT 9. SEE YOU THERE?
WE'LL BE THERE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

DEATH NOTICES

Hortense Edmondsen, 92, passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Trisha Mrozek, 55, Niles, passed away, Thursday, May 29, 2025. Service on June 27, 2025 at 5:00P.M., visitation an hour prior at Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Bonnie Tuyls, 90, Battle Creek, passed on Sunday, June 15, 2025. Services are Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 1:00P.M., visitation two hours prior at Calvary Apostolic Church-Battle Creek. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

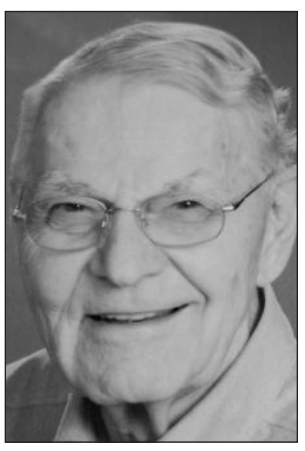
Johnathan Edward Wiseman, 54, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2025, in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

James Sheppard, 81, of Cassopolis, died Saturday, June 14, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Gary Evans McCormick, 91, of St. Joseph, passed away Monday, June 16, 2025 at Caretel Inns. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Services on Friday June 20. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

David Benton, 73, of Eau Claire, passed away Saturday, June 14, 2025. A visitation will be held at Bowerman Funeral Home in Eau Claire Sunday June 29 from 10:00-1:00. www.BowermanFuneral.com

OBITUARIES



Vernon Grinnell

August 11, 1937 - June 15, 2025

Mr. Vernon Eugene Grinnell, Jr., age 87, of Calhoun, GA, passed away on Sunday, June 15, 2025.

Vernon was born in Chicago, IL, on August 11, 1937, son of the late Vernon E. Grinnell, Sr. and the late Bernice Frances Barzen Grinnell. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Dorothy Griffith Grinnell, brother, John A. Grinnell, and brother-in-law, Bill Griffith.

Vernon graduated Niles High School in Niles, MI in 1955 and was the president of both the band and orchestra his senior year. He went on to attend the University of Michigan from 1955-1960 and was a member of the marching band. One of his favorite experiences was when the marching band played Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D. minor on the football field to an audience of 100,000 and received a standing ovation. He later graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering specializing in Metallurgy.

Vernon worked for National Standard Company for 43 years and retired in 2003. In the fall of 1961, he met Patricia Dorothy Griffith where she was also employed with National Standard Company. They had their first date on October 6, 1961, engaged on October 16, 1961, and married on December 16, 1961, in the First Presbyterian Church of Niles in Niles, Michigan. They were married for 60 years and 11 months.

Vernon became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1975. He was baptized on October 5, 1997, at age 60. He then became a member of the Stillwater First Presbyterian Church in December 2005 where he became an ordained Deacon, Elder and a Liturgist. He enjoyed taking pictures of new members and making DVDs of various church activities

Survivors include four children: Susan Catherine Pizzarello (Tom) of Lexington, South Carolina, Sandra Alison Grinnell of Greenville, South Carolina, Scott Vernon Grinnell (Amber) of Crestview, Florida, and Shara Ann Hamilton (Larry) of Calhoun, Georgia. Grandchildren: Chase Grinnell, Trisha Hemenway, Amanda Hamilton, and Hunter Hamilton. Great-grandchildren: Maira and Mia Hemenway.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 1:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, 829 Red Bud Road Calhoun, GA 30701.

Henderson & Sons Funeral Home, North Chapel, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Vernon Eugene Grinnell, Jr.

Niles Township approves 21 marijuana businesses, imposes moratorium on applications

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

> "Monday, the Niles Charter Township Board of Trustees voted to approve 21 marijuana businesses to operate within township limits on S. 11th Street between State Line Road and Fulkerson Road. The board also passed a temporary moratorium on accepting new marijuana business applications that will remain in effect until January 2, 2026."

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — Almost two dozen marijuana businesses are blazing forward in Niles Charter Township.

Monday, the Niles Charter Township Board of Trustees voted to approve 21 marijuana businesses to operate within township limits on S. 11th Street between State Line Road and Fulkerson Road. The board also passed a temporary moratorium on accepting new marijuana business applications that will remain in effect until January 2, 2026.

1. 3025 S. 11th St. – Haze 3LLC, Happy Daze
2. 3003 S. 11th St. – The Trap 2.0 LLC
3. 2414 S. 11th St. – Prestwick Holdings LLC, NAR Niles
4. 3125 S. 11th St. – Frank Investments Group 3 LLC
5. 3131 S. 11th St. – Ratco Investments LLC, King of Budz Niles
6. 2701 S. 11th St. – Sozo Health Inc, The Chronic Michigan
7. 2401 S. 11th St. – HD Natural Solutions LLC, Cannabis Bleu
8. 3158 S. 11th St. – JARS Ventures 13 LLC, JARS Cannabis
9. 2830 S. 11th St. – PER IV LLC
10. 2816 S. 11th St. – Kelba Holdings LLC, Pure Cannabis Outlet Niles
11. 2812 S. 11th St. – SEN Enterprises LLC, Uniq Cannabis
12. 3159 S. 11th St. – Lotus MGMT Holdings LLC, NAR Niles
13. 3019 S. 11th St. – Green Wolverine LLC
14. 2555 S. 11th St. – Bush Cannabis LLC
15. 2640 S. 11th St. – Oasis Wellness Center of Lansing 4 LLC, Levels of Niles Twp
16. 2800 S. 11th St. – Oasis Wellness Center of Bangor Twp LLC, Levels of Niles Twp 2
17. 3121 S. 11th St. – TTY Holdings LLC. URB Niles Township
18. 3020 S. 11th St. – Toke Cannabis Niles
19. 2824 S. 11th Street – Process Green I LLC
20. 3105 S. 11th St. – Haze 2 LLC, Lit Cannabis
21. 3135 S. 11th St. – TLJ Real Estate LLC

Since the Marijuana General Ordinance was adopted, the Township has received more than 20 applications for the licensing of Marijuana Establishments on S. 11th Street between State Line Road and Fulkerson Road.

The Township has also received substantial comments and information from the public raising public health, safety and welfare concerns regarding the number of marijuana establishments being allowed in the Township and the notice of intent and petitions regarding the Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

The board itself has public health, safety, and welfare concerns regarding allowing more applications for Marijuana Establishments than currently received and believed it was necessary to take the time to study the impact of the current applicants before allowing for more applications.

The board believes imposing a moratorium upon the acceptance of any new applications will:

- Allow the study of the public health, safety, and welfare concerns regarding the licensure of current applicants and any additional Marijuana Establishments in the Township and allow for any needed Marijuana General Ordinance update and implementation process to occur.
- Allow further consideration of the status of the Zoning Ordinance amendments and its impact.
- Allow the study and possible implementation of ordinance revisions to occur with citizen input and involvement, public debate and full consideration of all issues and points of view.
- Allow for consideration of changes in land use that have and will occur with the adoption of Ordinance 79-1.

Before the moratorium expires, the Township may extend the moratorium as appropriate to allow sufficient time to complete ordinance amendments. If an extension is adopted, the Township will publish notice of the extension.

Dowagiac teen gets prison time for November shooting

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Dowagiac teen is going to prison after shooting another person in the stomach last November. He was one of four people sentenced Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Haskins

Marcus Anthony Haskins, 18, of Orchard Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and was sentenced to consecutive terms of four years to 10 years in prison on the assault charge and two years in prison on the felony firearm charge.

Haskins has credit for 203 days served and must pay a total of $1,326 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Nov. 22, 2024 in the area of West Telegraph and Orchard Streets in Dowagiac. Police responded to reports of a shooting and a young man with a gunshot wound to the stomach.

Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning echoed statements made by Haskin's juvenile probation officer. "She said he was a very likable kid who would continue to hang out with others who got in trouble," he said. "She said he always had an excuse and that whatever happened was someone else's fault."

"He says the same thing here, that he was with others and shots were fired," Ronning said. "A witness said the defendant chased him down the street waving a gun and that at least four shots were fired. The defendant ran home and hid the gun."

"This was not a situation where he encountered someone and there was a fight," he added. "He was looking for a person, he running around the streets looking for someone … He was fortunate the victim wasn't killed. If he had died, there would be a clear case for premeditated murder and life without parole in prison."

Ronning said he wants to make sure the message gets out to other area youth. "I think this sends a message to kids in Dowagiac that we know who they are and what they are doing," he said. "Once you reach the age of 18, you're not going to be treated like a child."

Defense attorney Don Sappanos said his client wasn't passing the buck. He noted there had been a longstanding problem between Haskins and the victim and between their families. "Does that justify what he did? No, no," he said.

"What did happen that there was a group of boys in front of his mother's home and they called him out," Sappanos added. "He should have called the police and not confronted them himself. He was not driving around town looking for them and shooting them."

Haskins read a letter he had written the victim. The letter noted that he would take back his actions that day if he could. He apologized for his actions and said he didn't expect the victim to forgive him.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman told Haskins to use the experience to turn his life around. "You will be young when you get out," he said. "Don't sit around and stew about what happened. It takes a bigger man to do the right thing than the wrong thing."

"The reality is that what others think about you isn't important," he added. "I hope you realize that when you pull out a gun and shoot a person, you could spend the rest of your life in prison. At your age, that's a long time. When you're fooling around with guns and pull the trigger, you have realize the consequences including being six feet under."

"If you both don't put it behind you, someone is going to get killed," the judge said. "It will get to some point where you don't even know the reason why you're fighting. If you're not man enough to put this behind you, you will be in a courtroom again or a funeral home. That's just food for thought as you contemplate your life."

In other sentencings, two people were sentenced for possession of methamphetamine and a third was sentenced for drunk driving.

Moore

Melvin Lee Moore, 60, of Vandalia, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 300 days in jail with credit for 58 days served and $698 in fines and costs.

He also pleaded guilty to violating his probation from a 2023 case and was sentenced to a concurrent 300 days in jail with credit for 210 days served. His probation was revoked.

The most recent incident occurred Sept. 26, 2024 in Cassopolis. Police investigated when Moore had a bonfire that was not allowed under the village ordinances. He then ran from police and started throwing items out of his pockets. A search of the discarded items found meth and cash.

Moore had asked to withdraw his plea and proceed to trial. Judge Herman denied the motion, noting that Moore could easily face a prison sentence if convicted as a habitual offender.

Pierson

Jonathon Taylor Pierson, 42, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to three years probation, 30 days in jail with credit for five days served, $2,838 in fines and costs and $345 restitution.

The rest of the jail term will be postponed to the end of probation and could be suspended if he is successful on probation. If his probation is successful, the charge will be reduced to a second offense drunk driving.

The incident occurred Feb. 28 on M-51 near Dowagiac. His blood alcohol level was .202, more than twice the legal limit. Police responded to reports of a single vehicle crash with a car in the creek. Pierson denied driving or crashing the car but his clothes were wet.

Skalla

William Thomas Skalla, 37, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 98 days served and $2,418 in fines and costs. The charge will be reduced to use of meth if he is successful on probation.

The incident occurred March 8 in Cassopolis. Police were called to residence on reports of someone trespassing. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and meth was found on him when he arrived at the jail. He also faces charges in Berrien County.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

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SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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8	2	9	1	7	6	3	4	5

Niles man sentenced to prison

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man is going back to prison after being sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Dokey

Dustin Michael Dokey, 38, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of a weapon by a prohibited person and was sentenced to 14 months to five years in prison with credit for two days served. He must forfeit the weapon and pay $198 in fines and costs. The sentence will be consecutive to any parole violation sentence.

He also pleaded guilty to illegal entry and attempted resisting and obstructing police and was given sentences of credit for two days served and $250 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 4 in Berrien Township.

Dokey was released on parole Sept. 24, 2024 from 2023 sentences for possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of methamphetamine. He also had a 2019 sentence for third degree fleeing and eluding and a 2017 sentence for attempted assault by strangulation or suffocation.

Dokey's attorney said that while he has always been polite and well spoken with her, he appears to have problems with impulse control.

"I don't think he has malice in his heart," she said. "He was fooled by his companions that this was an abandoned house."

She noted that Dokey was found hiding under some clothes when police arrived and they then found a gun under the seat of his car.

Dokey apologized for his actions.

"I'm sorry for what happened," he said. "I'm trying to move on with my life."

In other sentencings, area residents were sentenced for drug, weapon and theft offenses.

Moss

Jaylin Marquis Moss, 19, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to two years probation under the Holmes Youthful Training Act, credit for 45 days served and $598 in fines and costs. If he is successful on probation, he can keep the charge off his record.

The incident occurred Jan. 27 in Niles Township.

Defense attorney Jason Engram said that Moss had only one juvenile adjudication before this incident. "He is a good candidate for HYTA, he's been in jail for 45 days and has not enjoyed it," he said.

Moss apologized to the court for wasting everyone's time.

Donald Wayne Reed, 61, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of a financial transaction device and was sentenced to credit for four days served and $198 in fines and costs. Restitution will be determined at a July 24 hearing.

Reed

The incident occurred Feb. 28 in Niles Township. A companion charge of larceny in a building was dismissed.

Defense attorney Dan French argued unsuccessfully to allow Reed to withdraw his plea. French said that Reed didn't realize that the restitution of $27,000 was being requested. He added that his client is in poor health.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said French had not shown good cause to withdraw the plea and that Reed had agreed to pay restitution.

Jacob Michael Winings, 26, of Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm and was sentenced to $218 in fines and costs and 40 hours of community service.

The incident occurred April 9 in Niles Township.

Winings called his actions a "big dumb childish mistake" that he should never had done. He noted that he lost his job as a welder because of the incident.

Zacharski

Evan Michael Zacharski, 29, of Niles, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for two days served, weapon forfeited and $658 in fines and costs. He also was sentenced to credit for two days served and $50 for use of meth.

The incident occurred April 16 in Niles.

French said that Zacharski carried a weapon for self defense. He added that his client had lived in Indiana previously and didn't under the different laws in the two states relative to firearms.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

164 attend SMC's STEM Camp

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Whether you're landing rovers on Mars, coding with artificial intelligence (AI), populating Abigail Craft's math-based zoo to learn fractions or testing pH levels, hands-on activities help develop problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaborative teamwork.

Southwestern Michigan College's seventh STEM Camp was held in the William P.D. O'Leary Building on the Dowagiac campus June 16-18 for 164 Michiana students entering grades 4-6 this fall.

Math and Physics Professor Andrew Dohm, a mechanical engineer turned teacher 25 years ago, writes the grants that the Bosch Community Fund awards to underwrite summer camps that are free to all participants.

"Our group this year was over 50 percent girls," Dohm said, "which is the first time that has happened." School districts represented include Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Marcellus, Decatur, Niles, Brandywine, Hartford, Mattawan, Berrien Springs, Coloma, Watervliet, Buchanan, Lakeshore, Eau Claire, Lawton, Paw Paw, Three Rivers and homeschooled students.

Each workshop explored a STEM letter — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Science led off with pH, the scale that measures how acidic or basic (alkaline) a substance is, ranging from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral, such as water. Values below 7 are acidic, such as lemon juice. Values above 7 are basic or alkaline. Bubbling, foaming and temperature and color changes signal reactions taking place.

Students used litmus to test whether a solution is acidic or basic. Blue litmus paper turns red under acidic conditions, and red litmus paper turns blue under basic or alkaline conditions.

Edwardsburg eighth-grade computer science teacher Deb Kraska, also finishing her 25th year in the classroom, including 20 with second and third graders, led coding on laptops. "One of my favorite things about coding is it allows you to be creative," she said.

Their programming introduction took them to code.org, joining 99 million students in all 50 states — 42 million of them young women.

Assisting Kraska were Cashton and Tallula Kimmey of the robotics team Ting Tang Walla Walla Bing Bang of RoboTZ (Robo-Tech Zone), which trains at SMC's Niles campus. They competed in May in the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas.

Edwardsburg Middle School science teacher Nichole Dohm conducted the engineering challenge to design, build and test a rover after watching a NASA video about Perseverance, a car-sized rover that explored Jezero Crater on Mars.

Its primary goal is to search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect samples of Martian rocks. Launched on July 30, 2020, it successfully landed on Mars on Feb. 18, 2021.

"We're going to be using the engineering process," she said. "Identify the problem, what is the challenge, what are the limits, such as time, how can we solve it? Our challenge is to safely land our rover. We want you to collaborate with your partners."

Dohm distributed their materials: a cup for a space capsule, two marshmallows for astronauts, eight straws, a piece of cardboard, note cards, three rubber bands, tape and 10 mini-marshmallows as a shock-absorbing cushion for the landing. Landers were dropped from a meter, modified with a parachute, then released again from the ceiling.

Craft, adjunct SMC faculty, directed students to brainstorm large (5x5), medium (3x3) and small animals (1x1) to stock a zoo, then calculate the necessary dimensions of a variety of "enrichments" — trees, rocks, ponds, shelters, shrubs, plants and flowers.

Edwardsburg village talks park amenities, possible new charter

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg Village Council continued discussing park amenities and looked toward the future with a possible new charter at their regular board meeting on Monday.

Trustees voted to approve the purchase of two replacement park benches at a cost of $800 each. One of the benches in need of replacement had been damaged by recent tornados. They also briefly returned to the topic of adding a pier to Gunn Park, which would add additional seating and extend into the water for easier fishing. After the extra cost of tornado clean-up, the council decided to delay the purchase of the pier until next year. They also discussed the possibility of seeking donations for such park amenities and honoring those who contributed with a plaque.

Later in the meeting, the council discussed responsibly spending village funds.

"It's the people's money," said Village President Dennis Peak. "We're good stewards with the people's money."

With the approval of Resolution 25-03, the Village of Edwardsburg begins the process of considering a new charter. The current charter was last reviewed, amended, and approved in 1986. The first step in the process is putting to a vote whether or not village residents would like to update the charter. With the approval of the resolution, village electors will be able to adopt or reject moving forward with the process. The resolution will appear on the next fall 2025 election ballot.

Trustee Sam Garwood expressed a desire for a public outreach campaign for village residents to understand the charter process and to create awareness for the election.

The village's new iron filtration plant continues to improve water in Edwardsburg, with a 97-100 percent reduction in iron and manganese reported by the Department of Public Works. DPW Coordinator Richard Low noted that he is continuing to calibrate the system to further lower costs. Already, the system requires less backwash recycling, decreasing sewer costs for the village.

The DPW report also noted that road patching had been completed and most of the tree damage from recent storms had been cleaned up. Sidewalk repairs will begin soon on sections of Cass Street, with up to $1000 approved for the purchase of concrete.

An invoice of $1,850 from Brown's Tree Service was approved for the removal of a tree that had fallen on power lines on Maple Street. Trustees also approved up to $750 for the cleaning of catch basins on Cass Street and up to $1,000 for road striping paint for use around the village.

The Police Board is in the early stages of researching the possible need and cost of a police dog.

The Village office will be closed Friday, July 4 for Independence Day. The next regular village council meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, July 21.

'Variety' the theme of Edwardsburg Museum's July events

COMMUNITY REPORT

EDWARDSBURG—Variety will reign in July at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum with metal detecting, Sauk Trail history, and music on the museum's back deck.

A badge from the 1894 Columbian Exposition (The Chicago World's Fair), a 1925 dance card from the University of Illinois Military Ball, a running board from a 1909 Model T, printing plates from the Edwardsburg Argus, and a 1935 half dime. Neil Hassinger will address all of these, discovered while metal detecting.

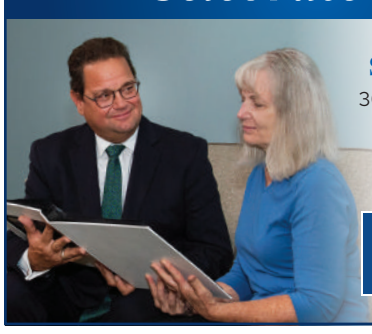
Hassinger, a Niles native who, with his wife, Kathleen, has lived in Edwardsburg for 38 years, will speak on "What's Underfoot in Edwardsburg" at 7 p.m., Thurs., July 17.

It is just one of the things Hassinger has done after retiring from a business he owned. A 1977 graduate of Niles High School, he attended Southwestern Michigan College. In addition to metal detecting, he is involved with the archaeological digs conducted each summer by Western Michigan University at the Fort St. Joseph site along the St. Joseph River in Niles. He also serves as a museum volunteer and actively participates in reenactments.

On July 22, the display, "Sauk Trail: Echoes of Our Past," will open. The exhibit will feature artifacts on loan from the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, which will curate the showcase. Also included are grinding wheels, stones, woodworking tools, and old axes that were used when Edwardsburg was settled. The display will be featured during the Sauk Trail Festival on September 27.

The Relics, one of the region's longest-running musical groups, will perform at the museum at 7 p.m., Sat., July 26, on the museum's back deck. Classic rock and pop music will be selections from the group's repertoire.

Admission to all three events is free.

Celebrate a life

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YMCA of Greater Michiana to host annual 5K/10K July 19

COMMUNITY REPORT

ST. JOSEPH — The YMCA of Greater Michiana invites runners, walkers, and families to join the 14th Annual Race for YMCA 5K/10K on Saturday, July 19 at 8:30 a.m., presented by Honor Credit Union.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA's annual campaign, which provides financial assistance for memberships and programs to local children and families in need.

Participants can choose between a 5K or 10K along a scenic course that starts and finishes at the Margaret B. Upton Arboretum, featuring views of the St. Joseph River, Silver Beach, and Lake Michigan shoreline. The event welcomes all fitness levels and is known for its community spirit and meaningful impact.

Virtual option available for added flexibility

New this year, the Y offers a virtual race option for participants who prefer to run on their own schedule and route. Those choosing the virtual experience can complete their 5K or 10K between July 19–27, submit their time online, and still receive a commemorative finisher medal. Virtual racers will also receive a printable bib and are encouraged to share photos and videos using #RaceForYMCA.

"Whether you join us downtown or complete your race virtually from wherever you are, every mile supports our mission to make sure no one is turned away from the YMCA," said Jill Haboush, Chief Development Officer, YMCA of Greater Michiana. "It's about community, movement, and making a real difference."

Participants of all fitness levels are welcome, from seasoned runners to casual walkers, and trophies will be awarded to the overall winners in the 10K run and 5K run, as well as medals given to the top three in each age group and children who finish the event.

For more information or to register, visit ymcagm.org/RaceYMCA.

RALLY

Continued from page A1

Southwest Michigan Women for Trump Southwest Michigan President Brenda Beadenkopf said the whole premise of "No Kings Day" was ludicrous.

"It's ludicrous that President Trump is trying to set himself up as a king," she said. "He's trying to do the opposite, he wants to take the power away from the bloated government and give it back to the people."

Despite their smaller numbers, Beadenkopf said she thinks a lot of people agree with them.

"I think a lot of people are on our side," she said. "They're still trying to gaslight us that the American people hate President Trump when he's trying to save the people."

"No Kings Day" and Coalition 4 Democracy organizer Angela Jones said she put out the call for Saturday's rally and had 200 new people sign up for the rally in addition to the 200 or so she already had on her mailing list.

"I knew it was going to be the largest crowd to date," she said. "... Most of the people are from Niles, but we also have Cass County people and those from smaller communities. There are communities without protests planned and we give them space."

"Our main concern is that there has been a lot of rhetoric that sounds authoritarian along with government overreach," she said. "There is a lot of 'what ifs' with the talk about cuts to veterans benefits, Medicaid and SNAP. The largest chunk of the budget goes to Medicaid and SNAP."

While she acknowledged that there are instances of fraud in both programs and people getting benefits who could be working, there are also a lot of children, senior citizens and people who are between jobs who depend on those programs.

When asked why people are protesting now rather than when conditions were bad during the last administration, Jones said people were complacent and allowed things to happen. She called Trump's election last November the "catalyst" and the straw that broke people's back.

She began the protests in February out of concerns she had over the Project 2025 agenda promoted by some conservative groups that she believes will restrict people's freedoms and rights.

She took issue with those who say that the "No Kings Day" and other protests are manufactured and not authentic.

"Our effort is entirely 100 percent volunteer driven," she said. "It's grassroots and it's something people are passionate about. I can't speak for others, but there's no dark money involved in our effort."

People at both rallies didn't have many answers as to how the political divide in the country can be bridged. They did agree on some issues: the need to uphold the Constitution and the importance of honoring the military and those who have served.

Jones said she personally tries to avoid any negativity or hatred toward the president.

"I try to focus on the policies and not just Trump," she said. "I try to show understanding and compassion when I get into conversations with Trump supporters."

Pro-Trump rally organizer Carla Johnson said she started the counter-protests to support the president and talk about the good things he's trying to accomplish including stopping illegal immigration and human smuggling.

The goal Saturday was to honor the Army. She held a handmade sign honoring her cousin, James Robert Fagras, who died in battle in December, 1944 during World War II while serving in the army.

"Just coming together to celebrate the Army would be a start," she said. "The reason we have a country where we can express our views is because of the Army. You can't hate the Army even if you hate the president."

"It cannot be about emotion, I'm trying to bring people together," she added. "People need to stop taking information from just one source or listen to just one pundit. Everything needs to be verified."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Zabrina Shivers, a senior at Dowagiac High School, is among 28 students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, and Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., who will be working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations this summer as part of its Summer Greeter Program.

JOB

Continued from page A1

assigned weekday shifts based on their availability. They will have at least one job shadowing opportunity with a staff member in their field of interest.

Josue Gonzalez, a senior at Niles High School interested in pursuing radiology or MRI as a career path, is looking forward to gaining exposure in the healthcare field while participating in the program.

"I'm excited about getting work experience, building my resume, and hopefully getting closer to the path I want to take after graduating," Gonzalez said. "The Summer Greeter program at Cass Family Clinic gives me the opportunity to observe potential future jobs and learn what it's like working in healthcare."

During their shifts, students will be stationed at the entry of Cass and Niles clinics, aiding patients and welcoming them into the facilities. Additionally, they will assist patients with wheelchairs, umbrella escorts (in the event of rain), and directional information, among other support services.

"The Greeter Program gives students a unique opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the day-to-day operations at Cass Family Clinic," said Gavan. "Now in its second year, the program is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the healthcare field. By August, we hope they leave with a clearer view of the industry and feel inspired to consider a future career in healthcare."

GRANT

Continued from page A1

"set for Sat., Sept. 27. Reenactors will use the deck for special presentations.

The America250MI History Grant Program is funding projects that will help preserve Michigan's history for future generations. The grant program represents a key element of the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The Edwardsburg museum is participating locally in this project.

In 2020, Governor Whitmer directed the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan

History Center to coordinate the state's commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The two organizations created the America250MI Committee to aid and advise this effort.

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
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FOOTBALL

Ready to build

New head coach Jeff Miller ready to lead Brandywine football

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — Jeff Miller had been patiently waiting for the right opportunity to join the head coaching ranks following a 20-year run as an assistant in Elkhart.

The opportunity was realized this spring when he was named head coach of the Brandywine football team. Miller succeeds Justin Kinzie, who was 9-22 in three seasons as head coach. Brandywine has not won more than four games since 2019, when the Bobcats finished 9-1, including the school's first undefeated regular season.

"You can tell that (the players) are ready," he said. "They just want to win, they want to be successful and we want to do that with them. We want to do that for them. I've been really encouraged. We've had more kids every single day. Whoever's there, we're going to coach them up and give them everything that we've got because that's the only thing we ask them to do. If we worry about that in everything we do, eventually all of the winning and all that stuff's going to take care of itself.

"We're not going to chase outcomes, we're not going to chase wins. We're going to worry about how we approach everything and eventually those outcomes will be where we want because that's sustainability. That's building a program from the bottom up and that's what we have to do."

Miller graduated from Elkhart Central, where he played for Indiana Football Hall of Famer Tom Kurth. From there, he went to Indiana University to pursue a teaching degree while helping coach the football team.

"(Teaching) is the perfect job for me," he said. "They say if you love what you're doing, you're never gonna work."

Miller returned to Elkhart in 2005, where he spent the past 20 years as

See COACH, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brandywine football coach Jeff Miller.

TENNIS

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brandywine football coach Jeff Miller.

Brandywine girls tennis earns Academic All-State

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Once again, the Brandywine girls tennis team has earned Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Division 4 Academic All-State honors.

To earn this distinction, the team must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 and this year's team had a program best GPA of 3.87. Six Bobcat student-athletes had perfect 4.0 GPA's: Ireland Prenkert, Sydney Olson, Aubree Murray, Alexandra Curtis-Lee, Chelsy Olson, and Alison Murray.

"Myself, Coach Robbins, and Assistant Coach Caitlin Stanner are very proud of their efforts on and off the courts as they were a great group to work with all season," said Brandywine Coach Joe Marazita.

BASKETBALL

Dowagiac grads ready to lead hoops programs

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac Union High School did not have to go far when looking to find its next varsity basketball coaches.

Craig Schau and Eric Charles were already a part of the Chieftains' coaching staff.

Schau, last year's varsity girls' coach, was recently hired to take over as Dowagiac's head varsity boys' mentor replacing Danum Hunt, who stepped down after 16 seasons leading the Chieftains' hardcourt fortunes.

Dowagiac finished the 2024-25 girls' basketball season 5-17 in Schau's one season leading the program, including a narrow 47-43 loss in the Division 2 district quarterfinals to Niles.

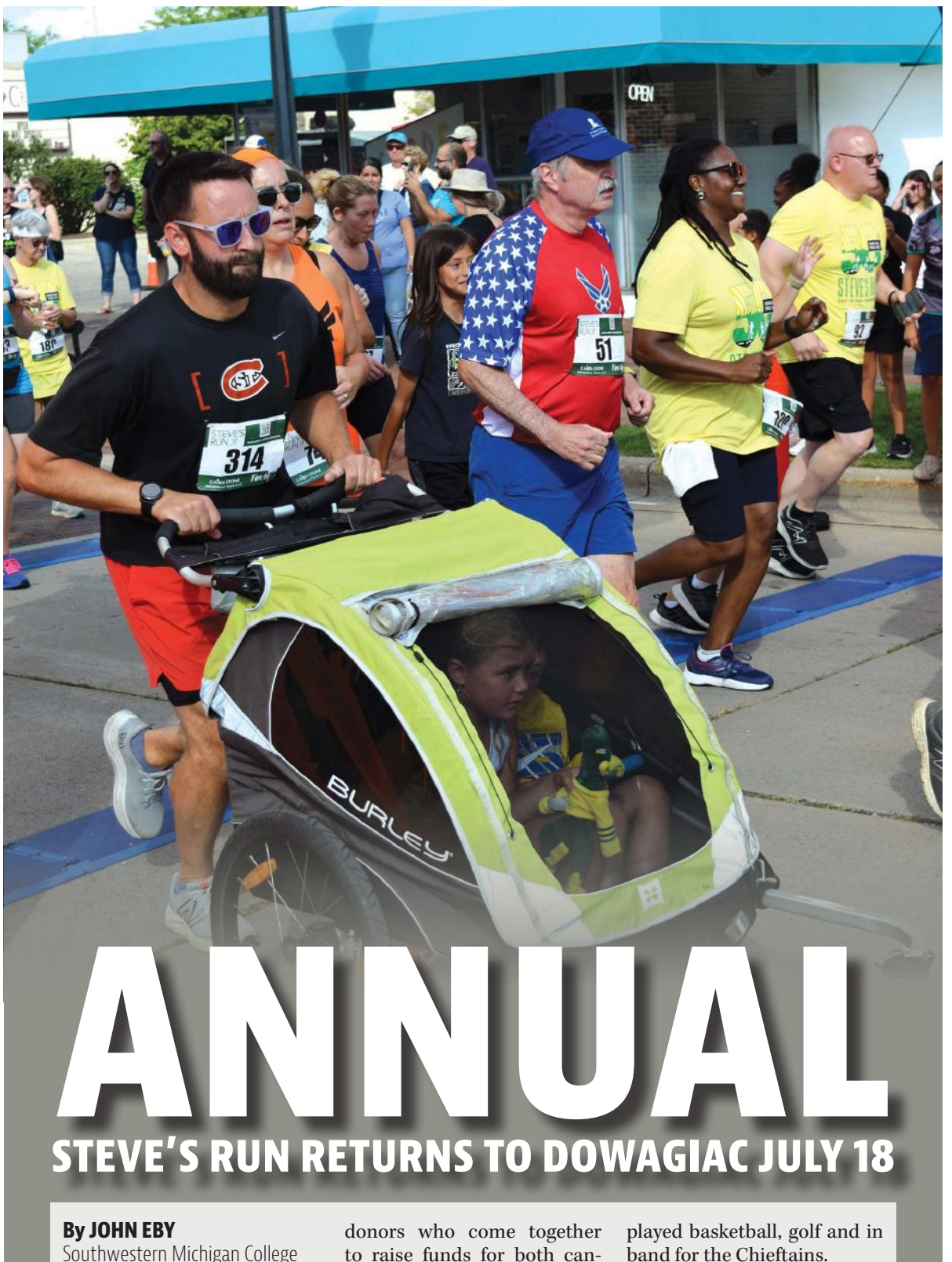
"It was a very difficult decision to leave the girls' program and it's something I wrestled with before making my decision to apply for the boys' job," said Schau, a 2001 Dowagiac graduate and former college player.

Schau inherits a Dowagiac boys' program that finished just 1-20 with six seniors, but the Chieftains will return a good group of promising underclassmen.

"I'm very excited to get

See HOOPS, Page B2

Craig Schau



ANNUAL

STEVE'S RUN RETURNS TO DOWAGIAC JULY 18

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — The 51st running of the Original Road and Trail Race takes place at 6p.m. Friday, July 18 in downtown Dowagiac, in conjunction with the Summer Festival and BBQ Competition.

"We're excited to return to downtown Dowagiac to help kick off the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce's Summer Festival and BBQ Competition. Registration will return to the train depot again this year. Our goal is to bring together 350 participants — and, of course, that means many more family and friends will be there cheering them on. We also have a group of cross country alumni who will gather to walk in Steve's honor, and, thanks to Steve's sister, Carrie, we're excited to bring back the Fire Up signs — a wonderful way to celebrate and remember those we're running and walking for," said Emily Schrock, Manager of Development and Executive Director of the SMC Foundation Board.

"We're truly grateful for all of our participants and donors who come together to raise funds for both cancer research and the David and Steven Briegel Memorial Scholarship. We're proud to have Cass Family Clinic as our presenting sponsor this year, alongside valued partners like Cairn Stone Adventure Tours, our bib sponsor, and many other generous supporters who help make this event possible," Schrock said.

"The Cass Family Clinic is proud to be a part of this inspirational event that brings the community together and contributes to the fight against cancer," Cass Family Clinics CEO Joseph Gavan said.

Known as Steve's Run since 1992, the event has raised more than $180,000 for cancer research and scholarships.

Steve's Run left downtown in 2015 for Southwestern Michigan College's campus, where it began in front of the David C. Briegel Building, named for SMC's fifth president from 1981-98.

David's and Camille's son, Steven Briegel, was born July 21, 1967, and died March 1, 1990, at age 22 after a 5 ½-year battle with cancer. He graduated fifth in Union High School's Class of 1986 and played basketball, golf and in band for the Chieftains.

He graduated with an associate degree in mathematics with honors from SMC in 1988 and was a junior in the Ferris State University program at SMC at the time of his death.

He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

After Steve's death, SMC's annual Road and Trail Race became Steve's Run, dedicated to all who have fought or are still fighting cancer, with proceeds split between Mayo Clinic cancer research and the Briegel scholarship. President Briegel died Jan. 13, 2021.

"I wanted to do something to honor Steve," founder Ron Gunn said. "We had a run around Edwardsburg's Eagle Lake in his honor" on July 31, 1991. On Aug. 1, 1992, Steve's Run embraced Dowagiac.

As SMC dean of sports education, Gunn organized races throughout the 1970s-'80s through Roadrunner Track Club. "The first few years it was called the Road and Trail Race, the Bud Lite Run and the Nike-Fair Store Run," he said.

A magazine named Steve's

See RUN, Page B2

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Stroller Dad

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

going with this group of kids. I've worked with a few of these boys coming up through the program and I've built a relationship with them. It's been a goal of mine to become a boys' varsity coach so I decided to put in my application when the job became available," Schau said. He and his wife have five children in the Dowagiac school district.

With summer vacation now underway, Schau has been able to get into the gym with his team and start laying a foundation with workouts and weight lifting.

"Our focus right now is to build relationships with the kids and a strong culture. We want kids that want to play hard and I am going to focus on playing tough defense, building our basketball IQ and strengthening fundamentals. Offensively we will play a style that fits our personnel," Schau said.

Brent Nate, Dowagiac's athletic director, is pleased to still have Schau as a member of the coaching staff.

"It was a tough decision for Craig to take the boys' position because he felt so much loyalty to the girls' program. As the process unfolded though, his strong connections with the players coming up in our boys' program made him a strong choice," Nate said.

Meanwhile, Charles, a 2012 Dowagiac graduate and former football and basketball player himself for the Chieftains, takes the helm of the Lady Chieftains' basketball fortunes following a five-year stint as junior varsity boys coach at Dowagiac.

"I have a real passion for coaching youth and for Dowagiac Athletics. I like having the opportunity to be involved in the community working with young people," said Charles, who will inherit an experienced team in the 2025-26 season.

Dowagiac's girls graduated just one senior and will return nine players. The Lady Chieftains' roster will be dominated by juniors and seniors this coming season.

"I want to run a fast-paced game, apply a lot of full-court pressure and employ man-to-man defense as well. We will be a gritty team. I'm looking forward to turning Dowagiac into a basketball school. We want the girls coming through to have as much love for basketball as they do other sports," Charles said.

Dowagiac officially hired Charles for the position on June 11 and he was able to get into the gym earlier this week to start working with his squad. The Lady Chieftains have summer scrimmages set up with Niles and Lawton.

"I'm excited to get started and we are very enthusiastic with this group. These girls work extremely hard and when you do that good things happen," Charles said.

Charles and his wife Dominique, also a Dowagiac graduate who sits on the school board, have two boys that are eight and two years old.

Nate is equally excited to have Charles leading Dowagiac's girls' basketball program.

"With Eric we are not only getting someone dedicated to basketball, but someone who is more than just an in-season coach. Often you will see Eric at other school events watching his players compete in volleyball, basketball, softball or track and field meets. Our coaches make a good effort to be involved with the other sports as well. That's the culture we are projecting here at Dowagiac," Nate said.

ABOVE: Charles BELOW: Schau

2025-26 MHSAA Officials Registration Underway

Courtesy of MHSAA

LANSING — The Michigan High School Athletic Association is accepting registrations online or by mail for game officials for the 2025-26 school year.

The MHSAA registered 8,891 officials for the 2024-25 school year, another of a recent series of increases as registrations continue to trend back to pre-COVID totals.

All officials who register may sign up for up to two sports as part of their registration. Officials also will receive membership in the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), which comes with a variety of educational and training resources and the NASO's Shield liability insurance that will provide $6 million in coverage for officials while they are working both MHSAA and non-MHSAA events.

For new and returning officials, a $70 fee covers registration for up to two sports. Officials may register for additional sports at $16 per sport.

To avoid a $30 late fee, all fall sport registration applications must be received by Aug. 18, 2024. Winter sports registrations must be received by Nov. 17 to avoid the late fee, and spring sports registrations must be received by March 25, 2026.

Online registration can be accessed on the "Officials" page. More information about official registration may be obtained by contacting the MHSAA by phone at (517) 332-5046 or by e-mail at register@mhsaa.com.

There is an officials' registration test for first-time officials, derived from the MHSAA Officials Guidebook. New officials and those who didn't officiate during 2024-25 also must complete the online MHSAA Principles of Officiating course. Additional exams must be taken by those registering for football or basketball for the first time or those who were not registered for those sports during the previous school year. Links to the Officials Guidebook, Principles of Officiating presentation and the football and basketball mechanics manuals can be found by following the "New Officials" link on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website.

There also are opportunities to officiate for students at least 14 years old and in grades 9-12 through the MHSAA Legacy Program. Juniors and seniors may officiate subvarsity contests, while freshmen and sophomores may officiate contests at the middle school/junior high levels. Mentor officials will work events with Legacy participants to provide guidance and support. Find information on the Legacy Program by clicking "Officials Registration" on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website and reading under "Student Legacy Program Requirements."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

DUHS Student Advocate Susan Baldwin.

RUN

Continued from page B1

Run one of the 10 best vacation runs in the country for its unique combination of highways, the Elks golf course and the college's rugged trails with hay bales and log obstacles.

Monday Night Running Club, founded in 1979, activated countless sedentary community members.

SMC has continued to host Steve's Run with the support of the City of Dowagiac and through generous donations from community partners. After a virtual event in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the race moved back into town in 2021.

Cass Family Clinic, an independent Federally Qualified Health Center serving southwest Michigan, operates in Cassopolis and Niles. A third location, at 57392 M-51 South, Dowagiac, opens late summer, featuring primary medical care and a full-service pharmacy, including a drive-through. The clinic expects to serve an estimated 2,400 patients and employ about 15.

Sign up for Steve's Run today at runsignup.com/stevesrun.

COACH

Continued from page B1

both a teacher and an assistant coach at Elkhart Memorial.

The size of the two schools may be different – Miller said Memorial's Class of 2025 had 850 students – but even so, he feels the two schools are still similar in their diversity.

"It's very similar to Elkhart in the respect that there's a mix of different kinds of people here, there's just less of them here," he said. "We have some farm-type kids, we have athletes and kids from all sorts of backgrounds, just less of them. It wasn't a culture shock."

When the Brandywine position opened up, Miller consulted his "circle," which consists of 32 football and track coaches he has built relationships with over the years and made the decision to lead the Bobcats on the gridiron.

"I feel more prepared than most because I've been coaching officially for 20 years and even longer with helping at IU," he said. "I've taken a lot from people I've worked with and I'm excited to be at a place that wants to win and is excited about football. I'm applying all of those lessons and learning more and seeing what works."

Miller has received support from coaches all over Michiana. Niles Head Coach Scot Shaw, who Miller worked for when Shaw helmed Elkhart Memorial from 2015 to 2019, has been an invaluable resource for him.

"The coaches network has been welcoming, open and supportive," he said. "People are willing to have a phone conversation for two hours or just talk ball if they have nothing to do. So just talking to him about what the Niles area is like and everybody in southern Michigan who I know says ' I think (Brandywine) can win there, they've won there before. I just think it's a really good situation."

Embracing Bobcat Nation

It did not take Miller very long to understand and appreciate the district's importance to the community. He praised the Brandywine community for its support of the football program.

"It's such a cool setup, you come off Bell and the road just dead ends right into the school," Miller said. "Because this is a township and not the city, the school is really the center of the community, which is really cool… From the superintendent to the principal, AD and other coaches, everybody is swimming in the same direction. There just seems to be a lot of support for the kids and the programs and that's exciting."

'Happy, healthy, high-performance'

Miller is tasked with rebuilding the Bobcats football program from the ground up and summed up his program philosophy as "Happy, healthy and high-performance."

"For our coaches, for our kids and for everybody who's in our program, we're trying to develop happy, healthy, high-performance student athletes who grow up to become lifelong community leaders. That's our mission," he said. "I think that happy, healthy, high-performance covers everything. We want to develop kids and teach them how to be happy and how to work through those mental spaces when they're not happy. You're going to have periods where there are peaks and valleys but the valleys aren't going to last and we have to teach them how to get out of those."

Miller said that his program will put an emphasis on speed training in order to cultivate healthy athletes on the gridiron.

"We're a sprint-based football program," he said. "We're not into 1980s traditional conditioning. We are focused on speed because speed is the tide that lifts all boats; speed stacked on top of speed can build speed endurance. Endurance will never build speed. If you think of a distance runner and what they look like when they're running versus a sprinter, a sprinter has big front side mechanics and small backside mechanics. Distance Runners are the opposite, so we're trying to build sprinters, not guys who are really good at running half speed."

When it comes to the high performance aspect of the program, Miller expects players to be the best versions of themselves as they represent Brandywine both on and off the field.

"High performance is everywhere. In the classroom, as a son, as a sibling, as an employee, as a player, as a leader in the school," he said. "One thing I want kids to understand is that you don't have to be here, you're choosing to be here. Because you're choosing to be and part of probably the most visible sport, you're a leader, whether you like it or not. With all the spoils also comes responsibility. So that's our mission for our program. It's happy, healthy and high performance for everybody."

'Let them play football'

When it comes to what the Bobcats will look like on the field, Miller said the offense will be "different" from the flexbone offense utilized the past three years.

"The offense will be different," he said. "I'm a fan of not overthinking it. We'll get the ball to our athletes in space and let them play football and make us look like we know what we're doing. Defensively, we'll probably have some variation of four-front where you can bring more guys into the box if you need to stop the run. You can have multiple safeties/linebackers or hybrid guys out in coverage if they're throwing the ball. But again, it's going to be simple so that they can play football. I think the worst thing we can do as coaches is make the kids think. Paralysis by analysis – if they're just standing there thinking about what to do, they're not actually playing football. So make it fun, make it simple and let the kids play football.

"This is still a game. We all put a lot of pressure on ourselves and we want to win and be successful but at the same time, when it comes down to it in the grand scheme of life, this is a game and if it's not fun, what are we doing?"

As offseason workouts continue into the summer, Miller's goal heading into fall practice is to build program numbers. Speed training takes place from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday at the middle/high school and football practice from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday and from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Readers can follow the football program at BWBobcatBall on Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter).

"We're trying to build numbers and get people excited about football again," Miller said. "They've been successful before but for whatever reason, they haven't been very recently. I'm not focused on the past. I think people who focus on the past are depressed because they're always thinking about the past instead of the present. I'm focused on today and moving forward and trying to make us better."

BASKETBALL

MSU to host Duke at the Breslin Center in December

Courtesy of MSU ATHLETICS

EAST LANSING — Michigan State's men's basketball team will host Duke in a non-conference game at the Breslin Center on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Television and game time will be announced at a later date.

This will be the 20th all-time meeting between the Blue Devils and the Spartans, and the first meeting since Duke posted a 74-65 win over MSU on Nov. 14, 2023 in the Champions Classic in Indianapolis.

Michigan State's last win in the series was a 75-69 win at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Dec. 1, 2020 in the Champions Classic.

The game in December will be the third game all-time between the teams at the Breslin Center.

Michigan State finished the 2024-25 season with a 30-7 overall record, including a 17-3 mark in the Big Ten Conference, as the team won the regular season title for the 11th time under Head Coach Tom Izzo and was selected to the NCAA Tournament for the 27th-straight season. The Spartans advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the 11th time and finished the year ranked No. 7 in the Associated Press Top 25.

TRACK & FIELD

UM's Sutherland wins second 400m hurdles title to close NCAA Championships

Courtesy of MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

EUGENE, Ore. — Savannah Sutherland of the University of Michigan women's track and field team captured the 400-meter hurdles title in record-breaking fashion on Friday to end the NCAA Outdoor Championships at Oregon's Hayward Field.

The Wolverines tied for 26th, scoring 10 points.

Sutherland capped an impressive career at Michigan with her second national title in the event and her third straight top-two finish. The senior led the entire race, running a personal best of 52.46 seconds to finish 2.20 seconds faster than second-place finisher Akala Garrett of Texas.

The Borden, Saskatchewan, native set four records in the program record, NCAA record, NCAA Championship meet record and the Canadian national record. Sutherland is now just the second runner in NCAA history to break 53 seconds, with Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone setting the previous collegiate record of 52.75 in 2018.

Clare McNamara improved in the heptathlon standings after the first event of the day, jumping 5.29 meters (17 feet, 2.75 inches) in the long jump to move into 21st place (3,765 points) from 24th. McNamara finished in 20th place with 4,980 points after throwing for 20.36m (66-9.75) in the javelin throw and running 2:13.17 in the 800-meter run to come just 0.02 seconds shy of her personal best.

The Maize and Blue will look to international competition next, with select members of the team continuing their campaigns at respective senior level and U20 national championships.

FOOTBALL

WMU seeks nominations for 2025 Western Michigan Athletics Hall of Fame Class

Courtesy of WMU ATHLETICS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

KALAMAZOO — The Western Michigan Athletics Fall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for the upcoming 2025 WMU Athletics Hall of Fame Class.

This year's class will be inducted on Friday, Oct. 10 and recognized at WMU Football's game against Ball State at Saturday, Oct. 11.

"Over the past few seasons, we've been intentional about re-engaging our alumni and creating a Hall of Fame and Homecoming weekend that truly honors our proud traditions," said WMU Vice President and Director of Athletics Dan Bartholomae. "As we continue our commitment to fostering meaningful connections with former Broncos and celebrating those who laid the foundation for our success, this weekend remains one of the most special in our department. We're excited to once again call for nominations and look forward to honoring the extraordinary individuals who have made a lasting impact on Bronco Athletics."

To be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame, nominees must meet the following criteria:

•A student-athlete becomes eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame ten years after graduation or withdrawal from the University.

•An athlete must have earned at least two letters in one sport or one letter in two different sports and have had significant team, conference, or national honors and accomplishments.

•A member of the University staff must have served the University for a minimum of five years.

•An outstanding career as an athlete or staff member must be complemented by an exemplary career in the individual's profession or occupation, a record that reflects credit to the person and this University

Anyone may submit a nomination using the official nomination form. Nominations can be supported with letters of recommendation. The nomination deadline for the 2025 class is Friday, July 18.

All nominations are reviewed by the Hall of Fame selection committee for statistical and biographical verification and then discussed and put forth for a vote. Election into the Hall of Fame is by a unanimous vote by the selection committee.

Letters of Recommendation should be mailed to:

WMU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee

c/o Elaine Russell

Western Michigan University

Read Fieldhouse

1903 West Michigan Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5406

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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
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Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
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Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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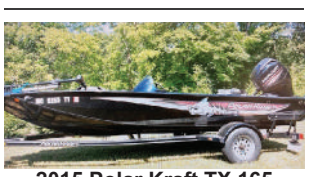

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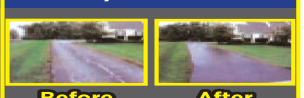

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Midland Online Estate Auction. Bidding open. JD8210 Tractor, JD3420 Telehandler, JD320 Skidsteer, Snap-On Tools, show buggies, buck-wagon, farm equipment, shop tools. Nice sale! Bid @ JohnPeckAuctions.com. Need an auction? Call John Peck 989-426-8061.

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IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ONTWA TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

EAGLE LAKE AND CHANNELS RENEWAL OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND GARVER LAKE

AND CHANNELS RENEWAL OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO: ALL RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES INTEREST IN, LAND IN THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESCRIBED BELOW

Properties abutting Eagle Lake and Garver Lake, its Channels, and deeded assess there to, in Ontwa Township, Cass County, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees, Ontwa, County of Cass will meet on Monday, July 14, 2025 at the Ontwa Township Hall, Edwardsburg, MI, 6:00 p.m. to hear any objections to the Assessment as reported to the Township Board pursuant to Public Act 188. Each listed parcel in the special assessment district will be assessed an amount to vary from $0 to $150 per year, for a ten (10) year period starting in 2025. The amount to be assessed each year will be determined at the September Township Board of Trustees meeting each year.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE Eagle Lake and Garver Lake has had a Special Assessment District (SAD) in place for the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants, for the last 5 and 10 years, respectively, for infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that have been managed by various methods over the years that have enabled the lake to remain navigable and enjoyed for fishing and recreational purposes.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE as provided for by Public Act 188 of 1954, a Township Board can initiate action to RENEW a SAD that is expiring.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any person may appeal and be heard at the said Hearing, which is called pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 188 as amended.

The Township Board shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned for the day before the party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested the assessment roll in person. The Township will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact the office of the Township Clerk not less than four days prior to the hearing.

Niles Daily Star:
Jun. 21 and 28, 2025
HEARING/SAD

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street, Niles, MI, 49120 intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 7/8/2025 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #K020; Unit #S028. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
7528-309474

Niles Daily Star:
June 21 and 28, 2025
SALE 07.08.25

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street, Niles, MI, 49120 intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an Online auction via the sale will occur at the facility on 7/8/2025 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #K020; Unit #S028. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
7528-309474

Niles Daily Star:
June 21 and 28, 2025
SALE 07.08.25

PUBLIC NOTICE

ONTWA TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY MICHIGAN
ONTWA TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CAMPFIRES & GRILLING, TENTS, TABLES OR CANOPIES ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO.2018-09-10.5 AS AMENDED ON AUGUST 14, 2023 SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE

THE TOWNSHIP PROHIBITION ON CAMPFIRES/FIRES & GRILLING, TENTS, TABLES OR CANOPIES, OR DUMPING OF FIRE DEBRIS IN/ON PUBLIC ROADS, OR RIGHTS OF

Public Notices

WAY
• Section 1. Title – This Ordinance shall be known as the Township Prohibition on Campfires/fires, tents, tables or canopies, Grilling or Dumping of Fire Debris in/on Public Roads or Right of Way.
• Section 2. Definitions – no changes
• Section 3 Regulations - No person(s) shall light or ignite or cause a fire to be set for any purpose in/on or around the public roads or road rights of way, including on the public streets, sidewalks or bike and pedestrian walkways in Ontwa Township, Cass County Michigan.
No person(s) shall be allowed to put up any tent, table, or canopy on the public roads or right of way. This does not include small umbrellas or covering meant for children or individuals to keep the sun off them (covering not to exceed 4ft x 4ft.).
• Section 4. Penalty – A person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a municipal civil infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed $100.00. Additionally, the violator shall pay all costs, which may include all expenses direct and indirect, which the township has incurred in connection with the municipal civil infraction.
• Section 5. Severability – no changes
• Section 6. Repeal – no changes
• Section 7. Effective Date – This Ordinance shall take effect after its publication
The local unit may by resolution further restrict or repeal parts of the Ordinance in effect that are in conflict only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.
The Ordinance is available in its entirety at the Ontwa Township Hall 22625 US 12 Edwardsburg.
This Ordinance shall take effect after its publication.

Niles Daily Star:
Jun. 21, 2025
ORD #2018-09-10.5

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
28	Emalee Anderson
32	Eric Johnson
60	Anthony Sharp
109	Raymond Greathouse
116	Melissa Kaeding
127/633	Chris Norris
145/467/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
152	Lorene Maynard
177	Larry Wegrecki
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
195	Daniel Beushauser
196	Colton Wedgeworth
205	Nancy Bombrys
224	Ricole Haas
228/367	Shawnette Booker
258	Briana Coon
273	Tony Pompey
275	Zachary Jahrling
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
321	James Browning
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352/355	Andre Ahlers
365	Stephanie Palmisano
368	Erin Weed
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
399	Les Hart
427	McCade Reese
430	Reshawn Preston
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
480	Lori Kennedy
530	Justin Landis
541	Nicole Hurt
577	Stephanie Pellow
605	Michael Lewark
608	Robert Conner
613	Nicole Jones
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

3	Bruce Walls

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday June 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

8	Kilshandra Rouch
57	James Colburn
97	Blake King
126A	John Daniel
284A	Bethany Snyder
311A	Michael Tapia
140	Ronnie West
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
174	Florence VanLew
227	Jennifer Nichols
228	Michael Hoadley
230	Felisha Liberty
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
262	Brittany Backus
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
367	Jackie Libertowski
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
389	Llandon Ross
422	Ty Dougherty
426	James Schilling Jr.
452	Aaron Smith
454	Mary Ann Sipe
481	Natosha Libertowski
497	Courtney Rybolt

Niles Daily Star:
June 14 an 21, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION BERRIEN COUNTY FILE NO. 2024-1107-AY-J HON. PAUL S. JANCHA, JR. NOTICE OF HEARING TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

In the matter of A.J., adoptee
TO: MARC JENSWOLD
TAKE NOTICE: On JULY 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM, in the 327 courtroom BERRIEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 811 PORT STREET, ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085, before PAUL S. JANCHA, JR., TRIAL COURT JUDGE a hearing will be held on the **PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS.** The law provides that you should be notified of this hearing. If you fail to appear at this hearing **YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED.**
If you choose to attend this hearing and you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
06/09/2025
NATHAN LOWERY AND KELLIE LOWERY
5739 WINDY ACRES LANE
BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49/103
574.292.9244
HEIDI A. DUNCAN P76168
107 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
DOWAGIAC, MI 49085
269/.782.9895

Niles Daily Star:
June 21, 2025
2024-1107-AY-J

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES BERRIEN COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (DRAFT NEW ZONING ORDINANCE)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That the Niles City Council will conduct a public hearing on **July 14, 2025 at 6:00PM Local Time** for the purpose of receiving public comments on a proposed new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map for the City of Niles to amend and replace the existing Zoning Ordinance adopted on January 22, 2007, pursuant to the Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended. The public hearing will be held at the City of Niles Fire Department in Council Chambers at 1345 East Main Street in Niles, Michigan, 49120. Comments may be made in person during the public hearing or written comments may be submitted beforehand. Written comments should be received by the City by **12:00 p.m. (noon)** on the day of the public hearing and addressed to the Niles City Council, 333 North Second Street, Niles, MI 49120, or emailed to communitydevelopment@nilesmi.org.
A summary of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance is as follows:
Article 1: Title, Purpose, Scope
This Article discusses the title and purposes regarding the proposed new Zoning Ordinance. The new ordinance shall be known as the "City of Niles Zoning Ordinance." There are multiple purposes supporting the new Zoning Ordinance.
Article 2: Definitions
This Article contains the definitions of various words, phrases, and clauses for purposes of the Zoning Ordinance.
Article 3: General Provisions
The use of all land, structures, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair and moving of all structures within the City of Niles shall conform with all applicable provisions of this {19159-004-00103193.3}
Ordinance unless the nonconformance is a matter of record on the effective date of this Ordinance.
Article 4. Zoning Districts, Land Use Table and Zoning Map
This Article discusses the purpose of this Ordinance, an overview of dimensional requirements and district regulations. This Article includes the City of Niles Zoning Ordinance Map.
Article 5. District Regulations
This Article sets forth an intent statement, provides for permitted uses, special land uses, dimensional standards, and other requirements for properties in the R-1, R-2, CB, NC, RC, OC, IND, OS, MHP, and WHP District.
Article 6. Reserved for Future Use
This Article is blank at this time and is reserved for future use.
Article 7. Signs
This Article sets for a purpose and intent, sign definitions, sign permits, exempt signs, prohibited signs, general sign provisions, nonconforming signs, temporary signs and permanent signs in the R-1, R-2, CB, NC, RC, OC, IND, OS, MHP, and WHP District.
Article 8. Special Land Uses
This Article contains standards and regulations for the review of applications for special land use approval. It also contains standards for specific land uses, including, but not limited to, accessory buildings, accessory dwelling units, adult uses, airports, places of assembly, bed and breakfast establishments, contractor's facilities, camps or campgrounds, car wash, cemeteries, commercial establishments with drive-throughs, construction equipment sales and supplies, day care, vocational school or trade school, foster care, funeral homes, galleries and museums, gasoline station, golf courses, home based business, hotels and motels, kennels and animal clinic, laboratories, dry cleaning establishments, self-storage, nursing homes, taverns and lounges, retail business, sand and gravel mine, social club, recreational facility, marihuana establishments, vehicle repair facility, and wireless communication tower.
Article 9. Site Development Standards
This Article states the purpose and intent of the site plan review, site plan review procedure and requirements, Planning Commission Review, procedures for review and approval, and performance standards. This Article contains general requirements and regulations for general parking provisions applicable to all districts, schedule of parking requirements and off-street loading requirements. This Article discusses general standards for landscape materials and ground cover, screening requirements, parking lot landscaping, interior parking lot landscaping, and suggested native plant species. This Article also includes regulated lighting, lighting plan requirement, and stormwater management and procedures. Article 10. Planned Unit Development
This Article contains the regulations, specifications, procedures, and other matters regarding the Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district.
Article 11. Administration & Enforcement
This Article discusses and regulates many matters regarding the general administration and enforcement of the new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, as well as the penalties for violations. The topics covered by this Article include, but are not limited to, the zoning administrator, zoning permits, performance guarantees, zoning amendments, public, hearings, performance guarantees, application fees and escrow accounts, proof of ownership, public hearing notice requirements, enforcement, and applications.
Article 12. Zoning Board of Appeals
This Article authorizes and regulates the Zoning Board of Appeals, including its creation, meetings, types of appeals, jurisdiction, application procedures, decisions, variances, effects of approval, and appeals of the decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Article 13. Separability, Repealer, Savings and Effective Date
If any piece of this Ordinance is adjudged by any court of competence jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgement shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance, but confined to the piece that directly involves the controversy in which the said judgment shall be rendered. The former Zoning Ordinance, and all amendments thereto, are hereby repealed. The repealed shall not release any penalty or liability and treated as remaining in force. This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days following the date of its enactment.
A full copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map can be reviewed, inspected, or purchased at the Niles City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:30AM to 5:30PM and Friday 7:30AM to 11:30AM. or viewed via the City of Niles website at www.nilesmi.org. The City of Niles will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, such as signers for the hearing impaired, upon seven (7) days' prior notice to the City of Niles by writing or calling the following: Ann Young, Community Development Director, 333 North Second Street, Niles, MI 49120; Telephone (269) 683-4700 ext. 3020. This notice is disseminated and posted pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA110 of 2006, as amended.
Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Young
Community Development Director City of Niles

Niles Daily Star:
June 21, 2025
HEARING 07.14.25

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3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
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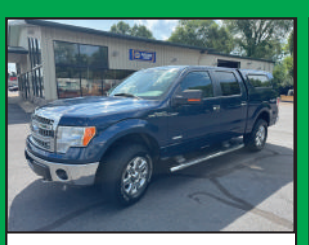

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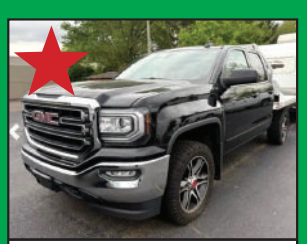

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